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DPD-6135-59

11 September 1959

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted], Acting Chief, DPD

SUBJECT : Use of Edwards Test Facility

1. Previous test program experiences with the Grumman Mod 50A and System VII show that if the Edwards Test Facility is initiated into the program early, the test phase will be accomplished in an orderly, efficient manner. In contrast, if this support organization is not permitted to participate in the planning of the test phase, maximum efficient support cannot be realized. Headquarters should rely heavily on the flight test experience of Col. Rosenfield and Col. Howe in establishing and managing future test programs.

2. With the conclusion of the J-75 engine program and the soon to be completed Grumman Black Box testing, the immediate flight test work-load should decrease. However, the capability for early component testing of the "follow-on" vehicle will remain intact. Although the present and future aircraft differ radically in performance capabilities, the size and environment of the reconnaissance compartment are quite comparable. This unique capability offers Project Headquarters the potential for early environmental testing of photo and Elint packages and component testing rather than being required to wait for completion of the entire aircraft-reconnaissance system prior to initiation of any flight test program.

3. In order to best utilize the flight test capability of the Edwards facility, it is recommended that Col. Rosenfield and Col. Howe be briefed as soon as possible on all aspects of the "follow-on" vehicle system. In addition, the responsible project offers for airframe, engine, Elint, and photo systems should establish a liaison procedure with Edwards to maintain current thinking and progress for an orderly and efficient transition from drawing board, to prototype, to test of all aspects of the various systems and components.

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Major, USAF

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DPD-DD/P: [redacted] mmsb
Distribution:
O & 1 - [redacted]
2 - [redacted]
3 - EdAFB-Col. Rosenfield
4 - Opns
5 - Mat
6 - Ch/DD-DD/P-DPD
7 - DD - [redacted]
8 - RI

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